

**The Ballroom Dance Center COVID-19 Policy
as of August 26, 2021**

As we begin another round with COVID, which so rudely encroached upon every area of our lives in early 2020, we ask for your support as we continue to safely dance at The Ballroom Dance Center. Due to the proximity with one another while dancing, the studio's safety policies err on the conservative side for the health and safety of our dance family

With that in mind, we will immediately implement the following protocol, which will be the studio policy until further notice.

1. A mask is required for everyone in the building.
2. Social distancing is required. (Limited exceptions include those who live in the same household or a teacher during instruction.)
3. Handwashing before and after lessons.
4. A 14-day absence is required if exposed to Covid, if Covid positive, or symptomatic.
5. Temperatures will be taken upon entering the studio.
6. A health questionnaire and waiver will be completed upon entering the studio.
7. Vaccinations are highly encouraged.
8. All public dances and group classes are suspended until further notice. We will provide up-to-date information monthly.

This decision was not made lightly and without facts to warrant our concerns. Augusta University, medical offices, and the CDC have returned to stricter protocols because of the Delta variant and the rise in cases. Also, although vaccinated people who get Covid are not as sick as the unvaccinated, they are still able to transmit the virus.

From the CDC webpage, August 25, 2021:

1. Richmond and Columbia counties and Georgia are currently considered at a "high level of community transmission."
2. "People who get vaccine breakthrough infections can be contagious."
3. "If you are vaccinated or unvaccinated and live or work in an area with substantial or high transmission of Covid-19, you – as well as your family and community – will be better protected if you wear a mask when you are in indoor public places."

While this may be uncomfortable for some, let's agree to disagree agreeably. The downside to continued protocols is discomfort, whereas the downside to lax safety protocols could be death. Multiple medical sources state emphatically that masks worn properly protect others. Unselfish love asks that we put the health needs of others before our own comfort.